

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NAIROB 08237 301503Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /092 W

-----009184 301511Z /42

O 301433Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9402

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T NAIROBI 8237

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, SO, KE, ET

SUBJECT: KENYA-SOMALI BORDER CLASH

REF: STATE 152141

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTTEL, DCM BRIEFED KENYA FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMSEC NG'ANG'A JUNE 30 ON APPROACH AMB. LOUGHRAN AUTHORIZED TO MAKE TO GSDR RE RECENT SHIFTA INCURSION INTO KENYA. NG'ANG'A COMMENTED THAT THIS US ACTION "ENCOURAGING AND USEFUL" AND SHOULD SHOW SOMALIA THAT INCIDENT WAS NOT PURELY A KENYAN CONCERN.

2. NG'ANG'A SAID THERE HAD BEEN TWO PREVIOUS SIGNIFICANT INCURSIONS BY SOMALIA SHIFTAS THROUGH SAME PART OF KENYA EN ROUTE TO ETHIOPIA DURING PAST YEAR, BUT KENYA GOVERNMENT HAD LIMITED ITS REACTION IN  
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THESE CASES TO SEIZURE OF WEAPONS AND ARRESTS FOLLOWED BY EXPULSIONS OF SHIFTAS TO SOMALIA. HOWEVER, KENYA GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN OBLIGED TO TREAT MOST RECENT INCIDENT FAR MORE SERIOUSLY BECAUSE OF (1) UNPRECEDENTED SIZE OF INCURSION, AND (2) FACT THAT, ACCORDING TO NG'ANG'A, SHIFTAS OPENED FIRE ON KENYA FORCES AT TWO SEPARATE LOCATIONS INCLUDING ATTACK ON KENYA POLICE POST AT RAMU. THEREFORE, CAREFULLY CONSIDERED DECISION HAD

BEEN TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO PROTEST BOTH BILATERALLY TO SOMALIA (ALREADY DONE) AND INTERNATIONALLY AT OAU MEETING IN LIBREVILLE (INSTRUCTIONS ALREADY SENT). HE SAID KENYA GOVERNMENT DETERMINED RAISE ISSUE IN OAU REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE REACTIONS WITHIN GSDR, SUCH AS THOSE MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL.

3. NG'ANG'A SAID KENYANS WERE QUITE SURPRISED WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED AS SOMALIA HAD RECENTLY BEEN UNDERTAKING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY LAST WEEK A SPECIAL EMISSARY FROM PRESIDENT SIAD HAD DELIVERED A CONCILIATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA. WHILE HOPING THAT INCIDENT WILL TURN OUT TO BE UNINTENDED ON PART OF SOMALI GOVERNMENT, NG'ANG'A SAID FACT THAT SHIFAS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF SOMALI ARMED FORCES INCLINED HIM TO PESSIMISM ON THIS POINT. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID SHIFAS WHO HAVE REACHED ETHIOPIAN SIDE OF DAWA RIVER (WHERE THEY NOW REMAIN) NOW CONSIST OF TWO GROUPS NUMBERING TOTAL OF 6,500 SUGGESTING THAT SOMALI GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE LAUNCHED MAJOR MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND WAS PREPARED ACCEPT RISK OF ANTAGONIZING KENYANS IN CARRYING OUT THIS OPERATION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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